

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 99

Designating November 20, 1999, as “National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day”.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 1999

Mr. REID submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Designating November 20, 1999, as “National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day”.

Whereas the 105th Congress, in Senate Resolution 84 and House Resolution 212, recognized suicide as a national problem and suicide prevention as a national priority;

Whereas the Surgeon General has publicly recognized suicide as a public health problem;

Whereas the resolutions of the 105th Congress called for a collaboration between public and private organizations and individuals concerned with suicide;

Whereas in the United States, more than 30,000 people take their own lives each year;

Whereas suicide is the 8th leading cause of death in the United States and the 3rd major cause of death among young people aged 15 through 19;

Whereas the suicide rate among young people has more than tripled in the last 4 decades, a fact that is a tragedy in itself and a source of devastation to millions of family members and loved ones;

Whereas every year in the United States, 200,000 people become suicide survivors (people that have lost a loved one to suicide), and there are approximately 8,000,000 suicide survivors in the United States today;

Whereas society still needlessly stigmatizes both the people that take their own lives and suicide survivors;

Whereas there is a need for greater outreach to suicide survivors because, all too often, they are left alone to grieve;

Whereas suicide survivors are often helped to rebuild their lives through a network of support with fellow survivors;

Whereas suicide survivors play an essential role in educating communities about the risks of suicide and the need to develop suicide prevention strategies; and

Whereas suicide survivors contribute to suicide prevention research by providing essential information about the environmental and genetic backgrounds of the deceased:  
Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1)(A) designates November 20, 1999, as “Na-  
3       tional Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day”; and

4               (B) requests that the President issue a procla-  
5       mation calling on Federal, State, and local adminis-

1 trators and the people of the United States to ob-  
2 serve the day with appropriate programs, cere-  
3 monies, and activities;

4 (2) encourages the involvement of suicide sur-  
5 vivors in healing activities and prevention programs;

6 (3) acknowledges that suicide survivors face dis-  
7 tinct obstacles in their grieving;

8 (4) recognizes that suicide survivors can be a  
9 source of support and strength to each other;

10 (5) recognizes that suicide survivors have  
11 played a leading role in organizations dedicated to  
12 reducing suicide through research, education, and  
13 treatment programs; and

14 (6) acknowledges the efforts of suicide survivors  
15 in their prevention, education, and advocacy activi-  
16 ties to eliminate stigma and to reduce the incidence  
17 of suicide.

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